

REPORT TO THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

ANNUAL DONATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2004

Submitted by

Iowa Department of Public Health

In conjunction with the

Iowa Donor Network

Introduction

Iowa is served by one organ procurement organization, the Iowa Donor Network. In contracts with the American Red Cross and LifeNet Tissue Services, Iowa Donor Network serves as the human tissue (bone, skin, tendons, and heart valves) recovery agency for the state. The Iowa Lions Eye Bank provides human eye recovery and cornea distribution services. The organizations cooperate closely with Iowa hospitals to promote and accomplish organ, eye, and tissue donation. In 1996, the Iowa Legislature created the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund. County treasurers seek contributions to this fund when Iowans register or renew the registration on their motor vehicles. In 2004, an organ and tissue donation awareness license plate was created for Iowa motorist. A \$35 charge for the plate plus \$10 renewal fee in addition to the normal fee is provided to the Awareness Fund. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee advises the Iowa Department of Public Health on grants to be made from contributed funds. Iowa Code 142C.17 requires the department, in conjunction with any statewide organ procurement organization in Iowa, to submit an annual donation and compliance report.

Donor Referrals

The organ donor referrals in Iowa through the third quarter of 2004 were 237 compared to 186 for the same period in 2003. Through the third quarter of 2004 there were 5,211 medically eligible tissue donor referrals made from Iowa hospitals. This is an increase from the 3,908 referrals received for this same period in 2003. Every general hospital in the state made at least one organ or tissue donation referral in the first three-quarters of 2004. In addition, and as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Iowa Donor Network received 2,485 Reports of Death referrals from Iowa hospitals.

Of the 237 patient deaths referred to the Iowa Donor Network for organ donation evaluation, 23 became organ donors. This represents a 38 percent decrease in actual organ donors for the same time period in 2003. Further, as of September 30, 2004, 1,914 referrals were made to Iowa Lions Eye Bank compared with 2,178 for the same time period in 2003. Year to date in 2004, 402 Iowans became eye donors, compared to 460 for the same time period in 2003 resulting in a 13 percent decrease in eye donations.

Organs and Tissues Recovered

Not every referral results in a suitable organ or tissue donation. Consent for donation and medical suitability must also be considered. Through the third quarter of 2004, there were 23 organ donors in Iowa. These donors contributed 64 organs for transplantation. This represents a 58 percent decrease in organs for transplantation from the same period last year when 151 organs were transplanted from Iowa donors. The number of organs recovered per donor decreased from 4.62 to 3.65.

Additionally, 195 Iowans donated bone and other non-vascular tissues for transplantation through September 2004. This is virtually unchanged from the same time period in 2003. Heart valves for corrective and life-saving surgeries were obtained from 42 deceased donors during this time period. Additionally, 168 Iowans contributed, upon death, much-needed skin for burn treatment.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank recovered 525 corneas for sight saving/restoring surgery and another 293 eyes were recovered and provided for important research into the causes of blindness. Through September 30, 2004, sixteen eyes were imported from donors in other states to provide Iowans with sight saving transplants. There is no waiting list for corneal transplants in Iowa due to the generosity of Iowans and the nationwide network of eye banks working to provide the gift of sight. Compared to 2003, there is a 4 percent decrease in eye tissue donated by Iowans for transplant in 2004 and a 24 percent decrease in eye tissue donated for research. In 2004, University of Iowa researchers at the Center for Macular Degeneration discovered the genetic link for Age-Related Macular Degeneration. This research is supported in part by donated tissue from Iowans through the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

Medicare Rules

In August of 1998, the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) promulgated regulations designed to increase organ and tissue donation. The rules are part of the Hospital Conditions of Participation for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The rules require "a hospital to have an agreement with the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), under which the hospital will contact the OPO in a timely manner about individuals who die or whose death is imminent in the hospital. The OPO will then determine the individual's medical suitability for donation. The hospital must also have an agreement with at least one tissue bank and at least one eye bank to cooperate in the retrieval, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of tissue and eyes, as long as the agreement doesn't interfere with the organ donation. The final rule requires a hospital to ensure, in collaboration with the OPO with which it has an agreement, that the family of every potential donor is informed of its option to donate organs or tissues or not to donate."

Contributions

The contributions provided through county treasurers to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Funds were \$30,973 in fiscal year 2004. This is \$6,780 less than provided in fiscal year 2003. However, an additional \$5,805 was generated through the new license plate program. Total fiscal year 2004 contributions of \$36,778 represent a rate of 1.25 cents per capita, down slightly from the 1.29 cents per capita in fiscal year 2003. The county treasurers, the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank continue to explore ways to increase the visibility of the contribution opportunity and contributions to the fund.

Community Grants

Total payment from the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund totaled \$50,791 in fiscal year 2004. This included \$25,661 for public awareness activities, \$6,260 for organ transplantation procedures and related patient costs and \$19,050 for development of the donor registry. Administrative costs were \$754.

Donor Registry

Chapter 1052, Acts of the 2000 General Assembly authorized the director of the Department of Public Health to contract for the establishment of a statewide organ and tissue donor registry. As specified, the contract shall provide for a centralized database and automated system to make organ and tissue donor information available to family members and physicians seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. The Iowa Donor Network (IDN) launched just such a registry, www.IowaDonorRegistry.org on March 18, 2002. To date, more than 28,000 Iowans have registered their intentions to become organ and tissue donors upon death. At this time, due to lack of state resources (funding and personnel), there is no electronic sharing of information between IDN, the Department of Transportation and county treasurers offices regarding the donor status of Iowa licensed drivers. It is possible that this automatic link may occur in the future.

Summary

As indicated in this report, the organ and tissue donation program continues to serve a significant number of Iowans. Although organ donations were less in fiscal year 2004, tissue donors and tissue contributions remained stable. Unfortunately, as of December 2004, the number of citizens continuing to wait for lifesaving organ transplants had climbed to 362. This represents an increase of 40 people from this same time last year. Efforts to increase public awareness and acceptance of organ and tissue donation must continue and be fostered by every practicing nurse, physician, social worker, paramedic, law enforcement official, hospital administrator and funeral director in Iowa. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network, the American Red Cross Tissue Services, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, and the IDPH will continue to promote increased organ and tissue donation and explore ways to increase public awareness of the option of organ tissue donation.